

# WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? CONSIDER THE ARITHMETIC

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the skyrocketing Federal debt, which long ago soared into the stratosphere, is sort of like the weather—everybody talks about it but scarcely anybody had done much about it until immediately after the elections last November.

But then the new 104th Congress convened in January. The U.S. House of Representatives made haste to approve a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Later in the Senate all but one of the 54 Republicans supported the balanced budget amendment; only 13 Democrats supported it. Since a two-thirds vote—67 Senators—is necessary to approve a constitutional amendment, the proposed Senate amendment failed by one vote.—There will be another vote later this year or next year.

Mr. President, as of the close of business Thursday, August 3, the Federal debt—down to the penny—stood at exactly \$4,944,455,888,709.39 or \$18,769.23 for every man, woman, and child on a per capita basis.

## LANE KIRKLAND: A MODEL FOR AMERICANS

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to remember and thank Lane Kirkland, a South Carolina favorite son who fought for American workers and jobs as one of the Nation's key labor leaders.

After more than 50 years of union service, including the last 16 years as president of the AFL-CIO, Lane Kirkland retired Tuesday.

Tomorrow's generation can learn much from Lane. Instead of today's pop morality tuned to getting a soundbite on the nightly news, Lane has lived a life dedicated to the principle that working people should work together to improve their lot in life, to fight for justice, to strive for dignity and to help all.

Lane Kirkland's accomplishments as head of the AFL-CIO should serve as a model for public service.

He was one of the Nation's first leaders to recognize the financial devastation that Reaganomics would wreak on our economy when he described Reagan's economic plans as a "high-risk gamble with the lives of working people."

And when the embattled Solidarity trade union faced an uphill battle in Poland, Lane Kirkland recognized what was at stake and provided a lifeline that kept Solidarity alive. In fact, Lane's lifelong fight to promote democracy led to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

No one could put it better than editorialists who wrote in Wednesday's *Detroit News*:

When the trade union Solidarity bravely emerged in the early 1980's to fight the Polish communist regime, Mr. Kirkland and other labor officials smuggled money, printing presses and even electronic equipment to

keep the fledgling anti-communist movement alive. . . . When it came to confronting the greatest security threat this country has ever faced, Mr. Kirkland did not flinch. He fought communism and supported fledgling democratic movements that contributed to the demise of many totalitarian regimes. For that effort, he deserves everyone's appreciation.

Mr. President, Lane Kirkland was born and grew up in Camden, S.C. In 1942—the same year I graduated from the Citadel—he graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. In World War II, he served as a deck officer on a merchant marine vessel that carried ammunition. After he graduated from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in 1948, he joined the AFL research staff. And in 1979, after moving up the ranks, he became president of the AFL-CIO.

Mr. President, Lane Kirkland's career is a striking parallel to America in this, the American century. He fought overseas to preserve our freedom. He won. He fought at home to make the American dream available to all of us. And he won. Finally, he fought to end the cold war and give others the access to the freedom that we cherish. Again, he won.

All of us as Americans have reason to be proud that Lane Kirkland is one of us. Those of us from South Carolina, however, have the privilege of claiming him as one of ours.

Mr. President, I appreciate Lane's friendship over the years and wish him and Irena all the best.

## IN COMMEMORATION OF COAST GUARD DAY

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the U.S. Coast Guard on this, its 250th birthday. Since its formation on August 4, 1790, Coast Guard men and women have served our Nation proudly, professionally, and with distinction. They have served in a complex organization that has grown and evolved along with our country. From a fleet of 10 small cutters built to stop smuggling, the Coast Guard has developed into a multimissioned organization that is the world's premier maritime service.

The Active Duty, Civilian, Reserve, and Auxiliary personnel of the Coast Guard today perform many more missions than those who served in 1790. On an average daily basis, the Coast Guard: conducts 191 search and rescue cases; saves 14 lives and assists 328 people; saves nearly \$2.5 million in property; seizes 209 pounds of marijuana and 170 pounds of cocaine worth \$9.2 million; boards 90 large vessels for port safety checks; processes 120 seamen's documents; responds to 34 oil or hazardous chemical spills; conducts 120 law enforcement boardings, identifying 65 violations; investigates 17 marine accidents; inspects 64 commercial vessels; services 150 aids to navigation; and interdicts 176 illegal migrants.

Everyone knows the valiant and often heroic efforts of Coast Guard per-

sonnel as they perform search and rescue missions. During one such mission this past winter, a Coast Guard rescue swimmer displayed true bravery. Aviation Survivalman First Class Michael Odom jumped from a Coast Guard helicopter in the middle of the night and swam several hundred yards through turbulent seas to help rescue three men. After the third man was safely pulled aboard the helicopter, the hoist cable broke, leaving Odom stranded in the ocean hundreds of miles from shore. Fatigued, the Coast Guardsman dragged himself aboard a life raft, and a waited rescue. The 20 foot seas and 40 knot winds repeatedly swept him from his raft, and he began to experience severe seasickness. Unconscious, hypothermic, and near death, he as rescued 5 hours later by a second helicopter. This spring, Aviation Survivalman First Class Michael Odom received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroic actions—actions that characterize the people of this great service.

The Coast Guard also continues to be the Nation's primary Federal maritime agency. As a lead organization in the war on drugs, the Coast Guard regularly stops the flow of illegal substances bound for our cities and communities, as demonstrated by a recent interdiction in which a Coast Guard cutter stopped a vessel with over 5,000 pounds of cocaine on board.

Responding to safety problems posed by foreign vessels operating in U.S. waters, the Coast Guard implemented a Port State Control Initiative last year that has produced positive results. Coast Guard marine inspector boardings of foreign ships in general have increased 70 percent, while boardings of foreign freight ships—the vessel type most often associated with substandard characteristics—have seen a 10-fold increase from previous levels. These efforts have led to the identification of over 400 shipowners and operators and 18 flag states associated with substandard ships. As a result of this targeting, the Coast Guard has enhanced its ability to focus boarding efforts on those ships that pose the greatest risk to marine safety and environmental security.

Coast Guard personnel are often at great risk in performing their dangerous missions. This past January, while conducting a law enforcement boarding, PO Jonathan D. Scotchmer made the ultimate sacrifice when the floor beneath him collapsed. His dedication to duty and willingness to serve his country are an inspiration to us all and will not be forgotten. Petty Officer Scotchmer is a true hero.

Despite being the smallest of the U.S. Armed Forces, the Coast Guard in some manner positively affects the lives of virtually all Americans. The service's efforts to enforce fisheries laws and regulations, to prevent, and when required, respond to oil spills in our Nation's waters, and to rescue